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ABSTRACT

This Texas report focuses on the partnerships the Texas Council is creating with people, businesses, and organizations in the community to work toward greater access and accommodations for people with disabilities throughout local communities. Individual partnerships are described that represent cooperation with health and human services agencies, respite networks, supported employment programs, inclusive schools, advocacy organizations, rehabilitation programs, transition programs, and other state agencies. In addition to looking at these broad partnerships emerging across Texas, this report examines what the Council and its grantees have done to achieve three goals: (1) the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout all life experiences; (2) self-determination that allows people with disabilities to have power and control over their own lives; and (3) options and supports to allow people with disabilities to make choices about the way they live. A chart indicating the sites of grants, subgrants, and training and technical assistance projects is included. (CR)

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Community Partnerships

Creating Inclusion Together

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1997

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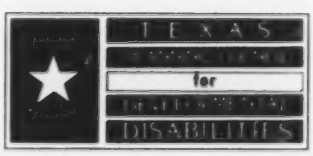

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Partnerships: *Creating Inclusive Communities Together*

Over the years, the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has worked tirelessly to improve the service system so people with disabilities can have the greatest opportunities to be included, participate and contribute to their communities. One of the biggest challenges has been finding ways that programs and services can better support the full inclusion of people with disabilities in everyday activities and experiences.

Recently though, the Council has asked itself some fundamental questions. Questions like: Are we changing the right system? Do improved social service programs alone facilitate full inclusion? If our goal is community participation and involvement, shouldn't our efforts and resources be in the community?

The health and human services system is familiar territory to TPCDD and while there is still much work to be done there, we must broaden our focus in an effort to realize the vision of full inclusion and participation.

This requires new partnerships. It requires working directly with people, businesses and organizations in the community. It requires learning from one another — sharing ideas, resources and expertise. It requires ongoing dialogue with people the community relies on for jobs, housing, education and health care, rather than a specialized services system. It also involves thinking more about access and accommodations for people with disabilities throughout our communities.

As we take stock of our accomplishments over the last year, the Council proudly points to the development, support and encouragement of new partnerships in Texas communities. The Council and its grantees have stepped outside the traditional health and human services circle and are working with banks, architects, HMOs, local coalitions, teachers, businesses, employers and numerous others to improve our communities for everyone.

Together these diverse groups are tackling hard issues, creating innovative solutions and working toward common objectives such as developing the state's workforce, improving education, ensuring children grow up in families, providing affordable housing and securing quality health care for all Texans.

Todd Gore visits with Kirbyville residents on his door-to-door sales route. (Photo courtesy of Burke Center)

In addition to looking at broad partnerships emerging across Texas, this report examines what the Council and its grantees have done to achieve three goals:

- ❑ Inclusion — People with disabilities are included throughout all life experiences;
- ❑ Self-Determination – People with disabilities have power and control over their own lives; and
- ❑ Options and Supports – People with disabilities have the available supports and services to allow them to make choices about the way they live.

By working toward these goals, new partnerships of groups and individuals throughout Texas are strengthening and preserving families, improving schools, and making it easier for adults to get good jobs, obtain their own homes and be involved in local activities and organizations. Together we are building more inclusive communities that recognize and value the participation and contributions of all their members.

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By facilitating broad partnerships, using resources more effectively and developing better ways to support people in the community, Council projects make it easier for Texans with disabilities to participate in everyday activities and experiences. These projects are bringing individuals with disabilities into the state's economic, educational, medical and social mainstreams.

For example, businesses, service providers, employment experts and school districts are a few of the public and private groups that recently made it possible for more than 200 adults with disabilities to obtain regular jobs. At the same time, two local projects and a statewide project made it possible for thousands of children to be educated in regular classes in their neighborhood schools. Participants included teachers, parents, school administrators, community leaders, volunteers and school board members.

State and local agencies are also participating in a project to ensure children with disabilities can grow up in a stable, nurturing family. This includes four local collaboratives and 23 permanency planning sites across Texas. Another project has improved respite services so families can obtain a needed break from the ongoing demands of caring for a person with significant disabilities.

Meanwhile hospitals, doctors, policymakers, community organizations, disability groups and numerous others are working to help Texans make the transition to Medicaid managed care. More details on these projects follow.

❑ **Healthcare Matters! (Advocacy, Inc.)** works to help Texans transition to managed care and to ensure individuals' needs are met by bringing together managed care organizations, hospitals, doctors, case managers, other service providers, the state's Medicaid enrollment broker, the Texas Medical Association, Texas Hospital Association, individuals with disabilities and disability groups, families, policymakers, state agencies (including TDH, TDHS, TXMHMR and HHSC), community organizations and numerous others.

A special emphasis is on helping people with disabilities entering STAR+PLUS, the new Medicaid managed care pilot in Harris County integrating long-term and acute care. Healthcare Matters! is also training managed care providers about the needs and desires of people with disabilities, including people's desire for community supports and services. Additionally, the project is identifying problems and successes in managed care pilots across the state and reporting these to policymakers.

The grant, which started in October 1996, works in partnership with the Health and Human Services Commission (which is implementing Medicaid managed care in Texas) and the Texas Respite Resource Network. ADAPT of Texas assists in training and technical assistance.

Activities include: holding consumer focus groups in Austin, Lubbock, San Antonio and Fort Worth; creating educational materials; providing training and technical assistance; working with policymakers; and creating a task force in Houston to mobilize local resources and oversee training.

Supporters of House Bill 885 celebrate Gov. George Bush's signing of a law which establishes a policy to help children grow up in families and sets up four pilot projects in Texas. Pictured are (from left): Simone, Claire and Rusty Thibodeau; their mother, Paula Russell; Amy Tompkins; Senator Judith Zaffirini (Senate sponsor); Jennifer Cernoch; Roger Webb; Gov. Bush (seated); Patty Anderson; Rep. Glen Maxey (HB 885 author); Rep. Elliott Naishtat (House cosponsor); and Kathy Cunningham and her daughter, Kaitlyn.

❑ **Families Are Valued (Texas Health and Human Services Commission)** works with family, community and state resources to improve the service system and ensure children with disabilities can grow up in a stable, nurturing family. Key participants include agencies that serve children across Texas; local and state Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCG) which address multiagency needs of children; HHSC's Children With Severe Disabilities Workgroup; parents and disability groups.

This five-year grant began in June 1996 and includes four local collaboratives demonstrating permanency planning — a philosophy that helps families build on their strengths while linking supports and services, such as special equipment, respite, training and home modifications. These subgrants are in Austin, Amarillo (Porter and Randall counties), El Paso and six rural counties near Richmond.

In addition to helping families stay together, permanency planning works to return institutionalized children to families. It provides creative options such as shared parenting, temporary foster care and open adoption so parents can maintain a relationship with their child when they cannot care for the child all of the time.

Families Are Valued supports 23 permanency planning sites in Texas started under a previous grant to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Other activities include statewide policy development, public awareness, technical assistance, community-to-community peer assistance, independent case management and family partner models.

This year the project participated in a state CRCG conference in El Paso on children's issues and prepared about 30 people to train others on permanency planning. The Texas Respite Resource Network is analyzing policy on family support across the state and availability of services. The project also helped develop a state law that promotes permanency planning and the four pilot projects.

❑ **Texas Respite Resource Network (Santa Rosa Health Care)** has worked on local, state and national levels to develop and improve respite resources in Texas so families can obtain a needed break from the ongoing demands of caring for a person with significant disabilities. Key activities over the past 12 years include developing three model respite programs, providing training across Texas, creating a statewide task force on respite and helping change the licensing structure for respite services.

Adrienne O'Prey (lower right) plays "dress up" with her friends Tara (holding flowers), Ashley (upper left) and Katie. Adrienne attends second grade in Spring, Texas.

During FY 1997, TRRN worked to create local respite coalitions in San Antonio, Galveston, Lewisville, Waco and the Temple/Belton/Killeen area; held its sixth conference in San Antonio on respite and family support; worked with state agencies and the Legislature on regulatory issues; and published a respite guide for families and professionals.

TRRN also worked with other Council projects this year to help smooth the transition to Medicaid managed care and to ensure that children with disabilities can grow up in families. Over 6,000 persons have received training or assistance from TRRN, including family members and providers.

While this project has ended, TRRN was awarded a new statewide grant which began in October 1997 to expand the availability of respite services for adults and children with disabilities. A statewide conference is planned in December 1998.

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❑ **Employment (Imagine Enterprises)** coordinates intensive training and technical assistance on integrated competitive employment by nationally-recognized consultants, project staff and employment experts in Texas for individuals, agencies and advocates. Activities include conference presentations, regional training on employment, and community-based planning to change local policies and practices so that more people with disabilities work in regular jobs instead of sheltered employment. Initiatives for employer awareness and leadership will also be implemented. This project was created in June 97 and ends in May 2002.

Marion Howard (left) assists a customer with earring selections at Simply Fashions in Austin, where she is a sales associate. A job coach initially helped her in learning the position. (Photo courtesy Austin-Travis County MHMR)

❑ **Supported Employment Demonstration (Austin-Travis County MHMR Center)** worked with local employers, community members, adults with disabilities and parents to convert from sheltered work to community integrated employment. By working in teams to solve problems and using person-centered planning (which develops innovative, flexible supports based on individual needs and desires), the project placed 93 individuals with mental retardation and autism in jobs in the community between January 1993 and December 1997 and closed the sheltered workshop. About 35 percent of the people hired had been considered unemployable or difficult to place prior to the project.

Extensive training and technical support were provided to employment staff, case managers, parents, consumers, employers, and others significant in the individual's life.

❑ **Supported Employment Demonstration (Collin County MHMR Center)** teamed with local resources and converted a sheltered workshop to integrated work opportunities, while also increasing people's involvement in other community activities. More than 70 individuals were employed or involved in educational programs and other inclusive activities while continuing to seek employment when the project ended in August 1997. Staff also created a guide for converting to integrated employment and provided consultation in Texas and at national conferences to promote replication.

❑ **Supported Employment Demonstration (Junction Five-0-Five)** involved local businesses and organizations in creating community integrated employment for people with disabilities. By the end of the project in May 1997, more than 50 individuals with developmental disabilities had obtained jobs in the community. Junction Five-0-Five also assisted the Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) Center of Brazos Valley with significantly downsizing their sheltered workshop, and the project had contracts with six school districts to provide supported employment. This project demonstrated the effectiveness of using an interagency cooperative group and a business advisory council to promote supported employment.

❑ **Inclusion Works! (The Arc of Texas)** provided training and technical assistance to school personnel and parents at local school districts and education conferences across the state from January 1993 to August 1997 to promote the education of all students in neighborhood schools and regular classes with children their own age. Over 1500 teachers, parents and administrators attended the Inclusion Works! conference in El Paso in February 1997. Previous conferences in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas and Houston trained over 3,500 Texans.

Also during the grant, Inclusion Works! teamed with the Texas Education Agency, Region 20 Education Service Center (ESC), and regional ESC inclusion facilitators to provide information about local best practices across Texas. Training and technical assistance were provided to TEA pilot inclusion sites and the Council's demonstration projects at Fort Bend and Mansfield Independent School Districts (ISDs). Inclusion Works! also established inclusive classrooms and field experiences for pre-service interns and made a video on inclusive education.

A Dean's Summit on inclusive education last year was attended by 22 Texas universities, and a training manual was prepared for inclusion consultants at the ESCs. Other presentations were made to 10 parent groups and at 15 conferences. The project continues its activities though Council funding has ended, including its statewide conference on inclusive education.

❑ **Inclusive Education Demonstration (Mansfield ISD)** combined the resources and skills of general and special education teachers to meet the needs of all students in regular classrooms, including 1200 students with disabilities. Programs and techniques once limited to special education classes and resource rooms became available for all students in the district. Mansfield ISD conducted training for all school personnel, community leaders, parents, volunteers and school board members, in addition to preparing regular and special education teachers to support children in regular classes.

Located just south of Arlington and Fort Worth, the school district has a total enrollment of 12,000 students. Over 97% of its special education students, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, attended regular classrooms in their neighborhood schools before the grant ended in May 1997. The district also worked on transitioning graduates to integrated work or other educational activities in the community.

❑ **Inclusive Education Demonstration (Fort Bend ISD)** also worked in the local community to include 915 special education students in regular education classrooms on their home campuses. The ISD started with pre-kindergarten education classrooms and systematically included elementary and secondary students during the five-year project that ended in May 1997. The project, located on the southwest edge of Houston, featured a district-wide advisory committee and inclusive education teams on each campus.

Inclusion, for Josh Downing (front row, left) and his classmates, means that everyone belongs and everyone participates, from attending kindergarten together in Gustine, Texas, to performing in school programs and being part of regular activities in their rural community.

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It is often pointed out that people who control the money usually control the rules too. For individuals with disabilities, this frequently means that service providers, agencies and policymakers have extensive control over the individual's life and choices.

Self-determination is a new way of thinking, however, which puts individuals with disabilities in charge of their own life. While this does not eliminate the need for service providers, it does shift decision making and control to individuals who use the services.

Self-determination is also a new way of thinking about service systems so that individuals with disabilities and family members have a key role in creating policy and making decisions that shape future services.

Increasing self-determination doesn't just happen by itself, however. It requires new partnerships with individuals and families to increase their knowledge and skills, as well as organizational partnerships.

During FY 1997, the Council funded five projects that increased self-determination by providing opportunities for Texans with disabilities and family members to increase control over their own lives and improve the service system.

Two of the projects — a leadership training program and conference stipends — worked directly with individuals to increase their skills, knowledge and ability to interact effectively with policymakers. A consortium of statewide disability groups and two task forces also brought advocates together to strengthen individual efforts and improve public policy.

In addition to working directly with individuals with disabilities and family members, these projects involved statewide advocacy organizations; local advocacy groups; policymakers such as legislators and other elected officials, their staffs and state agencies; state and national leaders; the news media; service providers; educators; and other professionals and organizations.

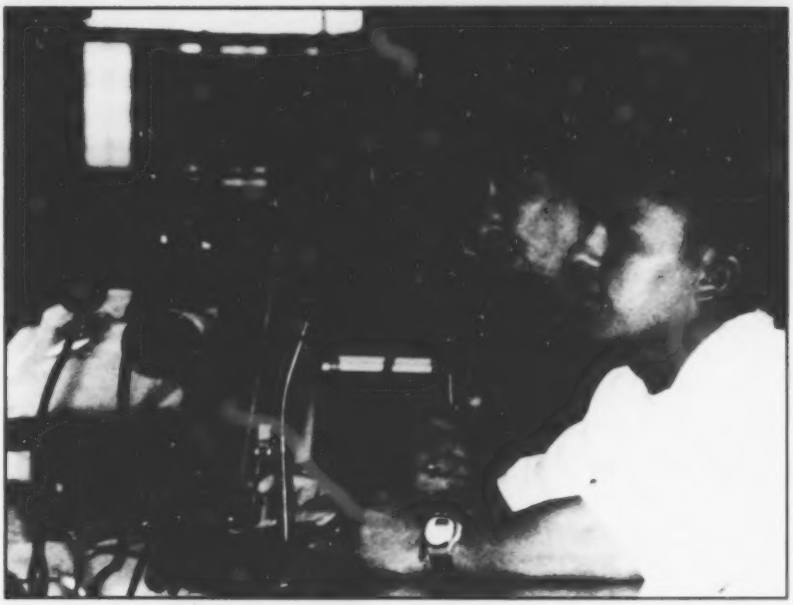
❑ **Partners in Policymaking** is a leadership training program that works with state and national leaders to prepare adults with disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities to influence public policy so Texans can obtain supports they need to be part of their communities.

Graduates and current participants work on issues which cut across all aspects of their lives and affect all members of their community, from education to employment, recreation, transportation, housing and independent living, accessibility and other issues. Graduates address these issues on regional, state and national levels through individual advocacy, participation in local and state organizations, and service on boards, committees and task forces.

Sixty-eight Texans from 37 counties graduated from Partners in Policymaking in the spring of 1997 from classes based in Austin and Houston. New classes began in the fall of

Kevin Hickman (at head of table) discusses his interests, options and life, including his desire to work in a regular job instead of a sheltered workshop in Lufkin, with Roy Tonia (standing) and other individuals he knows. (Photo courtesy of Burke Center)

1997 in Austin and El Paso, with participants representing 40 counties. Since 1990, 297 Texans have graduated from the program. Currently 83 counties benefit from the activities of Partners. Participants attend 16 days of training over a nine-month period. (Administrative support provided through a grant to The Walsh Company)



Adolfo Fregoso of Corpus Christi, accompanied by a translator, explains the need for supported employment, as Ricky Broussard from Alvin observes. As members of the current Partners in Policymaking class, Adolfo and Ricky had an opportunity to testify during a mock legislative hearing in the state capitol.

❑ **Disability Policy Consortium (Advocacy, Inc.)** brings statewide advocacy organizations together to discuss current issues, develop joint responses and promote progressive public policy concerning Texans with disabilities. The consortium works with key policymakers such as elected officials, their staffs and state agencies, as well as the news media and other organizations. This project provides staff support for the consortium, which meets biweekly.

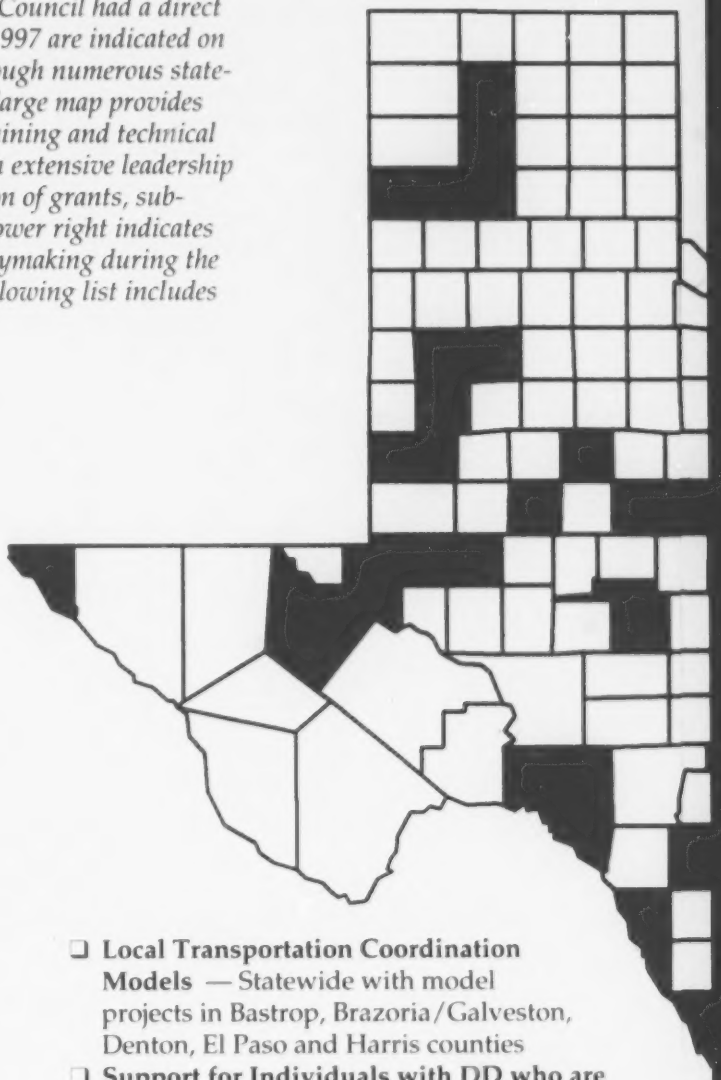
During FY 1997, staff and consortium members worked on legislation that passed regarding managed care, long-term care, disability rights, health insurance for children and permanency planning for children with disabilities. The staff also produced a regular newsletter on legislative issues and cosponsored a cross-disability rally at the Capitol attended by over 400 individuals. Additionally, a two-day workshop trained about 100 professionals and consumers about Medicaid managed care for people with disabilities.

Consortium members include: the Texas DD Council, Advocacy, Inc., The Arc of Texas, Brain Injury Association of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Directors Association of Texas Centers for Independent Living, Institute for Disability Access, Epilepsy Coalition of Texas, Mental Health Association in Texas, Spina Bifida Association of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas Advocates for Special-Needs Kids, Texas AIDS Network, Texas Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Texas Association of the Deaf, Texas Deaf-Blind Association, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Texas Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, Texas Society for Autistic Citizens, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas and the Texas University Affiliated Program/Texas Assistive Technology Project at The University of Texas at Austin.

❑ **Consumer Stipends** made it possible for over 500 Texans with disabilities and family members to attend eight conferences in the state during FY 1997 that addressed current disability issues and ways to increase inclusion in everyday activities and their community. These stipends were allocated by the sponsoring organizations for the following events: Family Matters III: Negotiating the School Maze; Community Resource Coordination Groups of Texas conference; Helen Farabee annual conference; Attention Deficit Disorders Association annual conference; The Arc of Texas annual leadership conference; Southwest Institute for Inclusive Schools and Communities; Texas Association on Mental Retardation annual convention; and the Texas Advocates annual convention.

Location of Council Grants & Activities

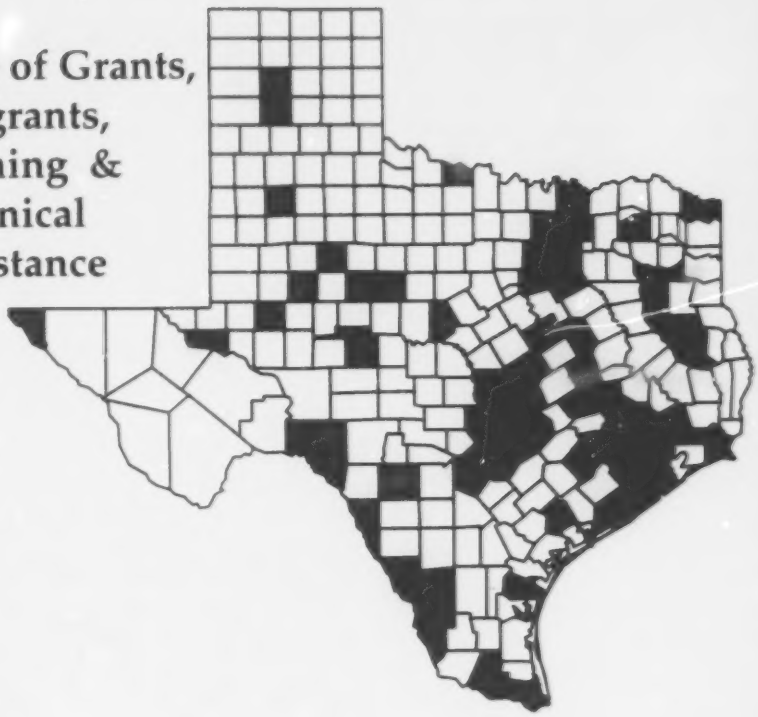
By bringing diverse people together to address current issues, the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities is impacting communities throughout the state and improving life for all Texans. Counties where the Council had a direct impact through grants, training and other activities in FY 1997 are indicated on the maps here. The Council also impacts other counties through numerous statewide grants and by spreading new ideas across Texas. The large map provides an overview, including the location of grants, subgrants, training and technical assistance, and participants in Partners in Policymaking, an extensive leadership training program. The map at upper right shows the location of grants, subgrants, and training and technical assistance. The map at lower right indicates where individuals live who participated in Partners in Policymaking during the fiscal year, as well as other counties with graduates. The following list includes Council grants and subgrants in FY 1997.



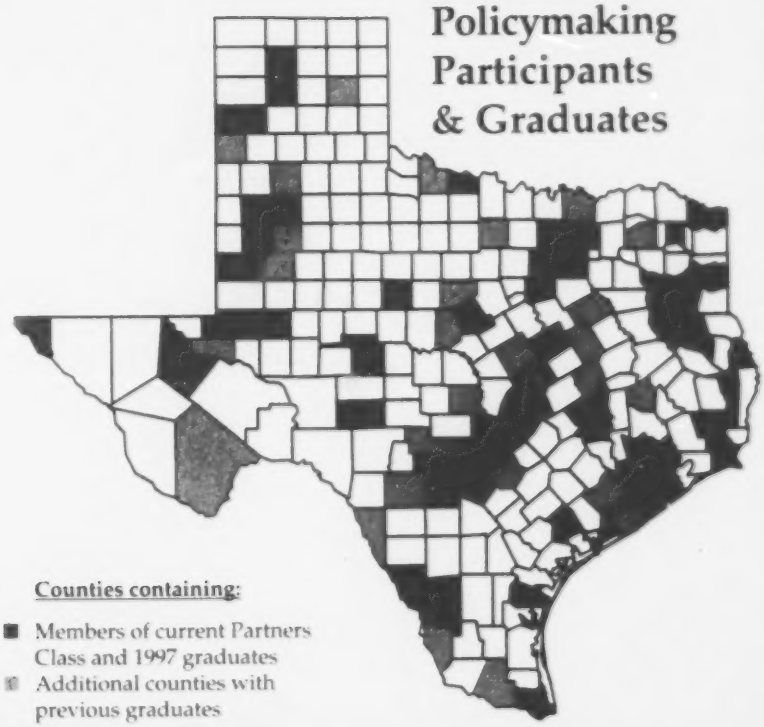
- **Healthcare Matters!** — Statewide with a local coordinator/demonstration in Harris County
- **Families Are Valued** — Statewide with four pilot projects covering 10 counties: El Paso; Potter & Randall; Travis; and Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller & Wharton
- **Supported Employment Demonstration** — Austin/Travis County
- **Supported Employment Demonstration** — Collin County
- **Supported Employment Demonstration** — Brazos County
- **Inclusion Works! (Education)** — Statewide
- **Inclusive Education Demonstration** — Tarrant, Johnson and Ellis counties
- **Inclusive Education Demonstration** — Fort Bend County
- **Texas Respite Resource Network** — Statewide
- **Partners in Policymaking** — Statewide with classes in El Paso, Harris and Travis counties
- **Disability Policy Consortium** — Statewide
- **Consumer Stipends** — Statewide
- **Texas Transition Task Force** — Statewide
- **Personal Assistance Services Task Force** — Statewide
- **Information and Referral Network** — Statewide
- **Social Security Work Incentives** — Statewide
- **Consumer-Controlled Housing Initiative** — Statewide with housing coalitions in Bexar, El Paso, Harris and Tarrant counties
- **Consumer-Controlled Housing Enterprise** — Statewide with housing coalitions in Bexar, El Paso, Harris and Tarrant counties
- **Texas Home of Your Own Project** — Travis County with local HOYO affiliates in El Paso, Galveston and Harris counties
- **Local Transportation Coordination Models** — Statewide with model projects in Bastrop, Brazoria/Galveston, Denton, El Paso and Harris counties
- **Support for Individuals with DD who are Aging** — Statewide with local projects through Area Agencies on Aging headquartered in Amarillo, Lubbock, Sherman/Denison, Tarrant County, Dallas, Belton and Bexar County
- **Special Needs Master Pooled Trust Project** — Statewide
- **Able Kids/Assistive Technology** — Statewide
- **Technology Learning Collaboration** — Statewide
- **Conference Coordination (Credentials, Inc.)** — Statewide
- **Conference Coordination (Meeting Planners International)** — Statewide

in FY 1997

Sites of Grants, Subgrants, Training & Technical Assistance



Partners in Policymaking Participants & Graduates



Counties containing:

- Members of current Partners Class and 1997 graduates
- Additional counties with previous graduates

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❑ **Personal Assistance Services Task Force (Coalition of Texans with Disabilities)** provided training across the state and worked to develop a statewide system of personal assistance services (PAS) in Texas so people with disabilities have more control in managing their own care and lives. This project provided staff support to the task force to assist with analyzing policy, collecting data, sharing information, coordinating efforts and other activities. The project was also instrumental in the Legislature's passage of a pilot program that allows vouchers to be used for personal assistance services in the community. Activities during the last year of the grant, which ended in November 1997, included updating an overview of PAS in Texas, preparing two newsletters and distributing a handbook for people with disabilities about recruitment, management and training of personal assistants. Despite progress that has been made, there is still a critical need to improve personal assistance services so people with disabilities can live in the community; therefore, another PAS project began in FY 1998.

❑ **Texas Transition Task Force (Advocacy, Inc.)** trained educators, advocacy groups and professionals to promote effective transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life so individuals have the opportunity to live, learn and work in the community with friends and neighbors. Training was coordinated through local education service centers and advocacy groups throughout the state.

In the final year of the grant, which ended in August 1997, 63 trainings were provided to more than 650 parents and professionals. These trainings were held in and around: Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Burleson, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Edinburg, El Paso, Georgetown, Houston, Humble, Kingwood, La Joya, Laredo, Lubbock, Marion, McAllen, Mercedes, Midland, New Braunfels, Pharr, Richardson, San Antonio, Schertz, Texarkana, Waco, West Columbia, Wichita Falls and Zapata.

The project also surveyed training participants to determine ongoing needs, published a newsletter and sent master copies of its training materials to all 20 Education Service Centers in Texas.

John Hawk provides personal assistance to his roommate, Giles Provost, so Giles can get up and get ready for the day. With the help provided by John and other personal assistants, Giles was able to move from a nursing facility to an apartment in Austin and take control his own life. (Photo courtesy PAS Task Force, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities)

In the past, services and supports for people with disabilities were provided almost exclusively by the health and human services system, instead of using the same places and providers used by the general public. Now, however, there is a growing demand for new options and supports from regular community resources so people with disabilities have real choices that fit their individual situations and goals.

This requires new partnerships with general public and private resources so they can accommodate people with disabilities and know how to meet individual needs.

A variety of Council projects are working to increase options available, educate people about what is possible, and help Texans obtain resources they need in the community. Several projects are also working to integrate disability services and generic services so individuals can obtain supports and services from the same agencies and providers the general public uses.

These projects are assisting with locating needed services, using work incentives to become self-supporting, buying or renting homes, developing public transportation, integrating aging and disability services, making estate planning more affordable, providing training on assistive technology for infants and toddlers, and coordinating training on disability issues.

People and organizations involved in these projects include the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Texas Department of Insurance, Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Area Agencies on Aging, health and human services agencies, a statewide network of regional training coalitions, builders, architects, real estate agents, affordable housing organizations, banks, home loan programs, individuals with disabilities, disability organizations, early childhood intervention, state and local service providers, community groups, businesses, city planners, local transportation providers, universities, attorneys, judges, financial planners and many, many more.

❑ **Information and Referral Network (Texas Health and Human Services Commission)** was created in 1990 to develop a statewide network of information and referral (I&R) providers to help Texans locate services they need. In addition to developing and supporting local and regional centers, the project

Alice Davidson provides information and referral services at the Houston Area Woman's Center, which makes it easier for people to locate supports they need. The Information and Referral Network is developing an automated information system on health and human services.

is now evolving into a public-private partnership. It is also developing an automated information system on health and human services.

During FY 1997, the project created a plan for further development of the I&R Network using computer and Internet technology. To implement this plan, the Council approved a one-year extension of its grant (through August 1998). Additionally, the 75th Legislature passed a bill directing the Health and Human Services Commission and other state agencies to support the Texas I&R Network. The Texas Workforce Commission also awarded $75,000 for enhancement of automation and services within local I&R centers.

This year the network will publish its sixth edition of a guide to I&R providers, which is available in print and on the Internet in the State Information and Referral System database.

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❑ **Social Security Work Incentives (Texas University Affiliated Program at The University of Texas at Austin)** is serving as a liaison with the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies to help Texans use work incentives to protect their disability benefits — such as SSI, SSDI and Medicaid — while the individuals become self-supporting. The primary focus is on Plans for Achieving Self-Support (PASS), which allow individuals to create their own employment plan based on personal desires and needs.

Since the project began in June 1996, a statewide network of regional training sites and community training coalitions has been created (the Texas PASS Network), as well as training materials and an on-line newsletter. This network is working to assure each county in Texas has a trained resource person to assist with PASS plans. PASS plans will be written for over 200 Texans.

During FY 1997, 49 trainings were provided to 1,500 individuals in Austin, Beaumont, Brownwood, Bryan, Cleveland, Conroe, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Del Rio, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Lockhart, Lubbock, Lufkin, McAllen, Nacogdoches, New Braunfels, San Antonio and Sulphur Springs.

❑ **Local Transportation Coordination Models (Office of Client Transportation Services, Texas Health & Human Services Commission)** pulls together transportation resources in five communities that represent different types of settings, such as metropolitan, rural, an urban/rural mix and border. Located in Bastrop, Brazoria/Galveston, Denton, El Paso, and Harris counties, these model projects are shaping their transportation system to meet the needs of all citizens, including people with disabilities.

Generally speaking, local coordination teams include disability advocates, city planners and all local transportation providers, such as city bus services, other public transportation, Area Agencies on Aging, state and local agencies that provide transportation for medical care, and nonprofit organizations. Each model has unique resources and features. For example, the American Red Cross is filling in gaps in Harris County, and Denton uses a website to help people find transportation, including several rural providers.

Now in its third year of funding, the project uses experience gained from the models and an active task force of transportation experts to improve transportation systems across Texas. The project was also active in passing three significant transportation bills during last legislative session.

❑ **Support for Individuals with DD who are Aging (Texas Department on Aging)** works to integrate aging and disability services so aging individuals with disabilities and aging caregivers can easily access services from various entry points. Local work groups will be created in all 28 of the state's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), with the first seven started in June 1997. These are located in the Panhandle AAA (headquartered in Amarillo), South Plains AAA (Lubbock), Texoma AAA (Sherman/Denison), Tarrant County AAA, Dallas City AAA, Central Texas AAA (Belton) and Bexar County AAA.

Individuals from both the public and private sectors are involved in the project including AAA staff, service providers, agencies that serve people with disabilities, disability groups, the Texas Department of Insurance, The University of Texas and Family Eldercare.

The five-year, systems-change project began in October 1996. A forum on aging and disabilities was held in March 1997 for staff from the 28 AAAs and local disability experts. Areas being addressed include personnel training, community integration and individualized life/futures planning, as well as assisting people with advocacy skills, insurance matters, financial and estate planning, legal issues and other supports and services.

❑ **Consumer-Controlled Housing Initiative (CCHI)(Diana McIver & Associates)** developed working relationships with builders, architects, real estate agents and other housing professionals; banks and home loan programs; government agencies; disability organizations; and service providers, which made it possible for about 300 Texans with disabilities to obtain and control their own homes. Organizations CCHI worked with include: the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and Texas Home of Your Own Coalition (HOYO).

Before the three-year project ended in May 1997, it trained 414 people at seven regional workshops; developed local coalitions to address affordable and accessible housing in El Paso, Houston, San Antonio and Tarrant County; and helped local organizations secure 16 grants for

$4,199,854. Grants were obtained by people in Austin, Bell County, Bryan, Fort Worth, Laredo, Galveston/Brazoria County, 14 counties around Lubbock, Midland and San Antonio. Most of these funds are helping with buying a house, rental assistance or modifications for accessibility.

In addition to supporting four coalitions in FY 1997, the project provided training, technical assistance and resource development in various cities. CCHI also updated its resource guide on housing, helped HOYO establish three local affiliates, and handled 1,000 calls for information.

❑ **Consumer-Controlled Housing Enterprise (CCHE)(Enterprise Foundation)** is a new grant working with housing organizations, real estate agencies and businesses across the state, as well as disability organizations and the Texas Home of Your Own Coalition to make it possible for more individuals with disabilities to buy or rent their own homes.

This three-year project, started in June 1997, will provide training and technical assistance to organizations, groups and coalitions in Texas to develop community-based housing options.

CCHE is providing support and funding now for housing coalitions started under a previous grant in El Paso, Houston, San Antonio and Tarrant County. The project also is working with new coalitions in Lubbock, Lufkin and McAllen in conjunction with Statewide Architectural Barrier Removal pilot projects sponsored by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. More coalitions are tentatively planned in Amarillo, Midland-Odessa and Texarkana.

The project will also: operate a toll-free information line; assist targeted organizations and communities in competing for federal and state housing grants; and work to separate funds for housing and support services and remove other barriers to consumer-controlled housing.

❑ **Texas Home of Your Own (HOYO) Project (United Cerebral Palsy of Texas)** provides administrative support for the Texas HOYO Coalition, which is using private and public partnerships, funding and supports to demonstrate ways for individuals with disabilities to purchase their own homes. The coalition has more than 20 members, including affordable housing organizations, realtors, statewide lending institutions, community groups, state agencies, disability groups, individuals with disabilities, and state and local service providers.

In the past year, the coalition assisted three people in becoming homeowners, three others in beginning to build homes and 25 more in starting the application process. Programs used include: HOME funding for home buyer assistance and owner-occupied rehabilitation through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA); Community Service Block Grant funding for homebuyer counseling and education; and mortgage underwriting through a Fannie Mae product being tested in 12 states.

In addition to assisting with home ownership in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties, Texas HOYO is supporting local affiliates in El Paso, Galveston and Houston, and working with TDHCA pilots in Lubbock, Lufkin and McAllen. The coalition also created an Internet site on home ownership.

First-time homebuyers Karen Greebon and J.T. Templeton celebrate closing on their new home along with a few of the individuals who worked together to make it possible to finance and construct the accessible house in Austin. Pictured are (back row, from left) Naomi Marin, HOYO project associate; Patrick Casey, builder; Jean Langendorf, HOYO project director; John Gervin, TDHCA; and Ann Littrell, realtor.

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❑ **Special Needs Master Pooled Trust Project** supports development of a statewide trust by **The Arc of Texas**, which is making estate planning more affordable by bringing together numerous disability groups, family members, public and private providers, attorneys, judges and financial planners. This trust can be used for supplemental, special needs of individuals with disabilities while ensuring continued eligibility for public benefits.

The Texas Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Mental Retardation have recognized that the trust meets OBRA guidelines so an individual's benefits and services will not be affected by funds in the trust. The project made 22 presentations this year in Alvin, Austin, Brownwood, Big Spring, Collin County, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Longview, Monahans, San Angelo, San Antonio, Snyder, Sweetwater, Tyler and Williamson County. Enrollment in the trust began in June 1997.

❑ **Able Kids/Assistive Technology (Children's Habilitation Center)** has teamed up with Early Childhood Intervention programs across the state to provide training and technical support on the use of assistive technology for children from birth to age three. The project started in 1992 in the San Antonio area, then expanded into South Texas in 1995 and on across the state. Additionally, pre-service training and college curriculum were prepared for health science students.

During FY 1997, Able Kids provided team training at 10 of the state's 20 Education Service Centers — in Abilene, Corpus Christi, Edinburg, Midland, San Angelo, Victoria, Austin, Houston, San Antonio, and Waco. Six of these were supported by the Council's grant, training 250 parents and professionals, and four were paid for by ECI. Training has also been provided across the state by teleconferencing, including sites in Corpus Christi, Eagle Pass, Edinburg, Laredo, McAllen and Uvalde last year. Staff also made recommendations for assistive technology based on videotapes of children in their natural environments. The project provided a training video and catalog of assistive technology equipment to all ECI programs.

Now it its final year of funding, Able Kids continues to work with ECI, and it is preparing to transfer its activities and responsibilities to the State ECI Program so assistive technology for young children will continue statewide.

❑ **Technology Learning Collaboration (United Cerebral Palsy of Texas)** provided assistance to a national outreach project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct training for parents and practitioners on assistive technology for young children with disabilities. Council funds supported printing of training materials, travel expenses of parents, and project staff. More than 900 parents and professionals were trained by the three-year project which ended in December 1996.

During FY 1997, training was held in Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and McAllen. Training was provided earlier in Corpus Christi, Laredo, Lubbock, Longview and the Rio Grande Valley. Lending libraries were developed in Austin, Dallas, El Paso and Houston.

❑ **Conference Coordination (Credentials, Inc.)** supported Council staff in arranging various training activities including regional seminars and a statewide best practices conference in Dallas in May 1996. This project ended in May 1997.

❑ **Conference Coordination (Meeting Planners International)** provides administrative support to Council staff for training activities, including a national conference in Austin, "Community Now! One and All," in October 1997. The grant began in May 1997 and ends in February 1998. Like the previous training coordination grant, it has coordinated presentations by numerous state and national experts, including people with disabilities and family members who are challenging outdated assumptions about disabilities, exploring what is possible, and suggesting new ways to promote inclusion and build community for all people.

Working Together for Ongoing Change

Some changes happen quickly. Others evolve over time, requiring years of effort to lay the groundwork, develop ideas, adopt policy and become available on a wide basis. While the Council is making steady progress in increasing opportunities and inclusion for people with disabilities, there is still much to be done.

Changing service systems requires long-term commitment to creating workable solutions and to developing and strengthening partnerships needed to reach goals. It requires hard work by a lot of people, including individuals on state and local, grassroots levels.

The Council began several new projects in the fall of 1997 that build on previous initiatives or work on a local level to create new partnerships and promote change. Two projects build on accomplishments regarding family supports and personal assistant services. These work on statewide and local levels.

Two other projects are developing local advocacy networks to respond to local and regional issues. Additional funding has been allocated to start two more networks in 1998.

❑ **Personal Assistance Services (Coalition of Texans with Disabilities)** will work to increase community-based personal assistance services (PAS) to make them more widely available, more accessible, and provided without disruption. This three-year project will participate in a workgroup for a pilot program in Texas that will give individuals with disabilities control over hiring, management and dismissal of their personal assistant(s). The project will also provide training on PAS to providers in the Medicaid managed care pilot in Houston. Other activities include a media campaign, policy development efforts, local outreach and a statewide conference.

❑ **Respite Support (Santa Rosa Health Care)** builds on previous work to improve respite services in Texas so families can obtain a needed break from the ongoing demands of caring for a person with significant disabilities. The three-year grant, which began in October 1997, will focus on policy development for a coordinated statewide system of respite options to support families. This includes working with state agencies regarding policy and working at local levels to involve families and individuals with disabilities in designing statewide respite services. The project will also provide training, technical assistance and information to agencies, providers, families and the public. A statewide conference is planned in December 1998.

Members of the Texas Planning Council work together to create change so all people with disabilities can be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives. By sharing individual ideas and expertise, the Council has developed a variety of projects on both statewide and local levels.

❑ **Local/Regional Advocacy Support Networks** — To help coordinate cross-disability, advocacy efforts on a local level, two projects were started in September 1997, with funding allocated for two more in July 1998. The first two grants went to the Southwest Institute in Abilene and the Family to Family Network, Inc., in Houston. In addition to bringing people together on local/regional issues, these three-year projects will distribute information, provide advocacy/leadership training, and work to make their communities more inclusive.

The Southwest Institute plans to survey the local community for barriers to inclusion, develop a community awareness program, create an advocacy resource center, and create a regional coalition of advocacy organizations in 29 counties. The Family to Family Network plans to conduct about 25 workshops to empower people with disabilities and families to control their own lives and promote inclusion in their community.

Texas DD Council *Revenue & Investments in FY 1997*

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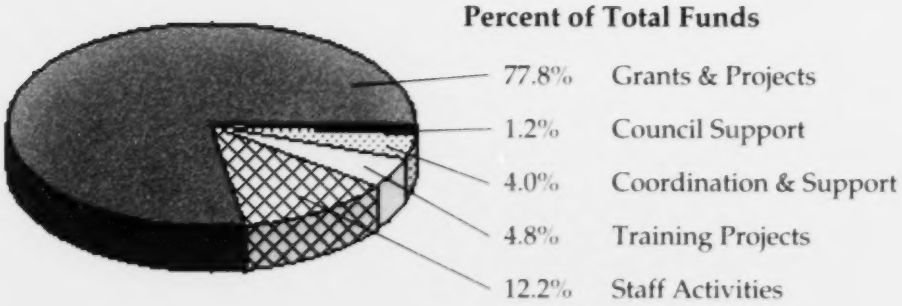
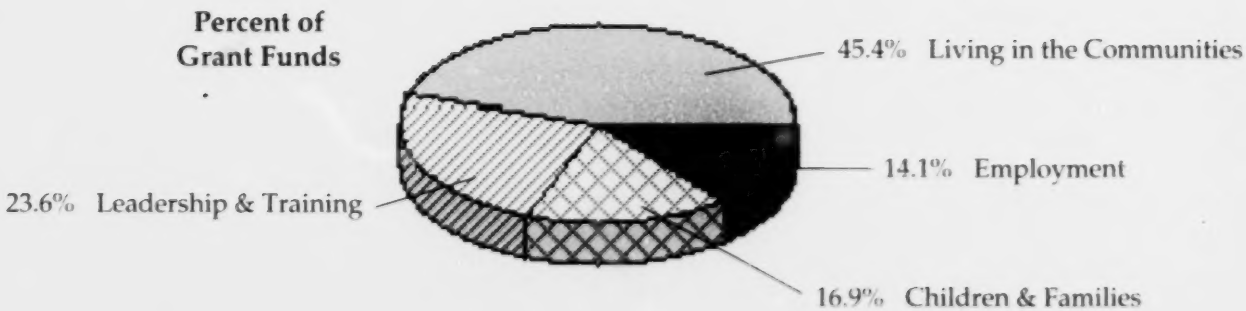
During FY 1997, the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities continued to invest more than 80 percent of its funds in grant and staff directed projects that benefit the entire state and its residents. These projects have made it possible for more individuals to be active, contributing members of their community by developing new partnerships, using scarce dollars wisely and supporting full inclusion so more people with disabilities can live in their own homes, work in regular jobs, attend school with their neighbors and participate in everyday activities. Most of the grants provide non-federal "matching funds" that equal at least 25 percent of their grant. Additionally, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission provides administrative support to the Council. Projects include direct service demonstration grants, training and technical assistance, policy recommendations and leadership training.

FY 1997 Investments
$4,106,187



FY 1997 Investments
in Grant Projects



The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Membership Roster - Fiscal Year 1997*

The Texas Planning Council is a 30-member board appointed by the governor. Council members include people with developmental disabilities, their parents or guardians, and representatives of each major state agency that serves people with developmental disabilities. The Council also has a representative from the state's University Affiliated Program, the state's protection and advocacy system (Advocacy, Inc.), and an institution of higher learning.

Jan R. Newsom, Dallas, Chair
David Benson, Houston
Joe Colunga, III, Brownsville
Shenikwa Cox, Dallas
Mary Durheim, McAllen
Raul Garza, Jr., San Benito
Genevieve Hearon, Austin
J. Robert Hester, Jr., Arlington
Beth Holt, Marshall
Jeri Houchins, Round Rock
Theda Hoyt, Cypress
Gary Kay, Brownwood
Federico Marquez, El Paso
Linda Parrish, College Station
Rebecca Ratliff, Coppell
Hector Saenz. San Antonio
Charley Tiggs, Lubbock
Linda Vancil, Ballinger

Representatives of a University, Advocacy, Inc., and the UAP:

Barbara Loera
University of Texas/Austin

James Comstock-Galagan
Advocacy, Inc.
Judith Sokolow, Alternate

Penny Seay
University Affiliated Program
University of Texas/Austin

State Agency Representatives:

Nansi Morris
Texas Commission for the Blind
Bill Agnell, Alternate

Ann Horn
Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Paula Johnson
Texas Department on Aging

Beverly Koops, M.D.
Texas Department of Health
Pam Farley, Alternate

D. J. Johnson
Texas Dept. of Human Services

Richard Smith
Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Pat Craig, Alternate

Gene Lenz
Texas Education Agency
Tom Cowan, Alternate

Joyce Dawidczyk
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Dena Stoner, Alternate

Kaye Beneke
Texas Rehabilitation Commission

* Council membership as of Sept. 30, 1997

Council Staff

Roger A. Webb, **Executive Director**
Rosalinda Lopez, Administrative Coordinator
Nancy Arms, Receptionist

Grants Management
Lester Sanders, Director
Douglas Gullickson (through April 1997)
Dee Sportsman
Michael Davis

Planning and Policy Development
Jan Mallett, Director (retired March 1997)
Mickey Jacobs, Director (hired June 1997)
Marilyn Simpson

Advocacy & Public Information
Mary Jo Magruder, Director
Lucy Walker
Claude Wilson
Susan Maxwell

Training
Jopie Smith, Director
Susan Murphree
Jerry Keesee
Denese Holler (through May 1997)
Joel DeGuzman (hired June 1997)

This annual report was produced by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities using funds available under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, P.L. 104-183. In FFY 97, the Council expects to receive $4,106,187 (75%) in federal funds from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and $1,375,000 (25%) in non-federal participation in projects.